

APPOINTMENTS

DRAWER 10

EXECUTIVE ROUTINE

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Executive Routine

Appointments

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Abraham Lincoln's Executive Routine

Appointments

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 10, 1861.

SECOND EDITION.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS. While politicians and newspapers have been canvassing very freely the merits and demerits of distinguished gentlemen from the Middle and Western States whose names are mentioned as candidates to fill Cabinet offices under the administration of President Lincoln, little or no speculation has been entered into with regard to representatives from New England and the South, who should be called upon to take places as Cabinet advisers and heads of departments, upon the 4th of March, 1861. The South is in such an anomalous state that the question is not who *should*, but who *will* have such an office—an office, too, which has hitherto been considered a high prize among political aspirants. On the part of the North, which now has the important place of Secretary of the Navy, the public merely hear that a somewhat bygone politician of Connecticut has been marked in for the office of Postmaster-General.

But New England, like every other portion of the country, will require a strong man in the Cabinet for the next four years; and President Lincoln will require more than one strong man to lean upon in the day of trouble and responsibility, when he shall assume the Presidential chair. Wm. H. Seward is acknowledged now to be the choice of Mr. Lincoln as Secretary of State. In that position, as future national circumstances present themselves to the mind's eye, he will have enough to do. The labor which will fall upon him, in the uncertain times which are before us, with respect to our relations to foreign powers who are now so closely connected with us in ties of peace, friendship and trade, when our nationality is in danger of being split to pieces, will be immense, and will require all his powers of judgment and discretion.

But Mr. Lincoln requires other men, of equal character, talent, ability and firmness with Mr. Seward, to stand by him in the trial to which he will be subjected when he enters upon the duties of his new office. He should have statesmen all around him, for he is the great and the responsible man of the day, the pilot who is to

weather the storm of disunion—and that storm is a formidable one. He must have men upon whom he can lean in any emergency, and such men cannot be obtained through the influence of county cliques or state jealousies. He must take his own strong sense, upon which the country has some confidence, and draw into his Cabinet councils only those who, by their ability and their strength of character, may be presumed to command full respect from the country, as well as that which all look and hope for—success to his administration.

In these "times which try men's souls," New England has a man who in hereditary accordance with the distinguished line from which he sprung, is a man for the times, and who by his character and sagacity, his ability, firmness and magnanimity, is fully equal to take his part in the solution of the great question of the day, and who will perform that part straightly, faithfully and impartially, if opportunity is given to him. Mr. Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts, who has already placed himself upon favorable ground with respect to the unhappy controversy in which our country is involved, is one of the most proper men in the whole Union for a place in the Cabinet of the incoming President. He has already acquired the respect and the favor of politicians of various parties—the Springfield Republican, the leading Republican journal in middle and western Massachusetts, and the Boston Courier, and Boston Post, which represent far different political principles and interests, joining, for a wonder, in his favor. He has made a mark in this time of political passion and turbulence which cannot easily be effaced, and the respect which is accorded to him, and which he has fairly won in his single Congressional term of office, is an augury to him of bright eminence in the future.

If there are any who suppose that the range of Mr. Adams's knowledge of political matters is confined to the sectional disputes of the day, they are wonderfully mistaken. He has for a life time been a thorough student of political economy, and was known, years ago, as an able and critical writer upon the topics of currency and trade, presenting views which, though not entirely popular then, are almost universally adopted now, by experienced financiers, and men of practical sense and knowledge in commercial and monetary circles. Such a man would be a valuable accession to the administration of any President, and at the present time his worth can hardly be appreciated fully, when the rush for honor and office is more wide and indiscriminate than discreet and patriotic.

sylvania Avenue. On the west side of this alley (No. 324) was the residence of James Campbell during his term of office as Postmaster General in the Cabinet of President Pierce (1853 to 1857). Mr. Zenas C. Robbins resided there after that time for several years, and it was the home at one time of Henry L. Ellsworth, of Indiana, the first Commissioner of Patents, 1836 to 1848.

Mr. Robbins is still living in this city, as also his wife and son, the father having passed the record of four score years about ten years ago.

Zenas C. Robbins was born in New Hampshire in October, 1810, and at the age of 21 went to Boston where he lived for three years. From there he went to St. Louis where he remained for ten years and in 1844 became a resident of this city. He has told me of his journey from St. Louis to Cincinnati by water, covering three days and from there on to Brownsville, Pa., and Cumberland by stage, occupying seven or eight days. From the latter place travel by rail to Relay House was over wooden rails and was anything but comfortable; in fact it was anxiety all the way for fear that the rails would loosen at the ends and come plunging through the floor of the car.

For the first seventeen years of his life here Mr. Robbins was one of the prominent patent attorneys of the city and during the administration of President Lincoln was Register of Wills. He had formed an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln while he was in Congress and Mrs. Robbins and her sister were accompanied by Mr. Lincoln to the Inauguration Ball when Zachary Taylor came into office. This intimacy with Mr. Lincoln continued when he became President and Mr. Robbins was selected by him as the first of five commissioners constituting a Board to organize

a Loyal Police Force for this city, under an Act of Congress passed at the special session called by Mr. Lincoln soon after he came into office. The late Wm. H. Tenney, Ex-Mayor Henry Addison of Georgetown and Sayles J. Bowen were three of his colleagues on this Board. When called together by the President, he said to Mr. Tenney: "I have appointed you to please my friend Caleb Smith" (Secretary of the Interior). To Mr. Addison he said: "I have appointed you to please my friend Montgomery Blair," and to the other two he made a similar statement; but he added: "I have appointed Mr. Robbins to please myself." The proclamation abolishing slavery was being discussed very earnestly here during the weeks preceding the date set for it to take effect, and appeals came from many loyal republicans for the President to reconsider the matter as there were strong indications that the proclamation, if carried out, would seriously injure the party. Among many others who had every confidence in Mr. Lincoln's standing firm in the matter were Mr. Robbins and the Rev. Byron Sunderland, but the latter seemed to think it was the duty of all to say a word in support of the measure, so he asked Mr. Robbins to call with him and introduce him to the President. He gladly consented and Dr. Sunderland in an earnest way told the President that he hoped what he might say would help in some degree to persuade him to remain firm in his determination. "Go on," said Mr. Lincoln; "every little helps."

In the second house west from the one last mentioned General John C. Fremont was living in 1841 when he eloped with the daughter of Senator Benton, the two gentlemen being near neighbors at the time. General Fremont died in July, 1890, but his widow is still living, her present home in Los Angeles, Cal., having been

a gift to her from the women of that state. Another distinguished man who occupied this house was Alex. H. H. Stuart, Secretary of the Interior in the Cabinet of President Fillmore. After the return of Dr. Byron Sunderland from Paris in 1866 the house was purchased by several members of the First Presbyterian Church and presented to him and his wife for a parsonage.

No. 332 was the home for more than 30 years of Rev. Wm. McLain, and it was there that he died February 15, 1873. Three of his family continued to have their home there for six years longer, and two of them (Dr. John S. McLain and the older daughter) are still living in this city. Mr. McLain was born in Champaign County, Ohio, in 1806. He was graduated at Miami College in that state and finished a theological course at Yale. In 1833 he became a resident of Washington and was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church from January 3, 1837, to June, 1840, when failing health obliged him to resign. He was actively connected with the American Colonization Society for 33 years, having been its secretary, and afterwards treasurer and financial secretary.

No. 334 C Street was the home of the late Senator Thos. H. Benton during a large part of the time he was in the Senate, and it was in that house he completed the literary work which helped so greatly to make his name famous in history.

On the afternoon of February 27, 1855, the house was totally destroyed by fire. It was bitterly cold weather and I can distinctly remember it. Not being sure of the date, I wrote to Mr. J. J. Peabody, secretary of the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Association, and in giving me that date he added: "I can vouch for the cold weather, for I was frozen while in a tree holding the hose pipe."

RECORDS,
OF THE
Columbia Historical Society,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMPILED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION AND THE RECORDING
SECRETARY.

Volume 5.



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1902.

HUGH J. BAKER AND COMPANY
POST OFFICE BOX 892
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206

J. DAVID BAKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

May 16, 1978

The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Attention Mrs. Hubler

Dear Mrs. Hubler:

This confirms our telephone conversation of Monday, May 15th, in which I described a number of items referring to the appointment of Peter Page as the Collector of Internal Revenue, First District, Cook County, Illinois, in Chicago 1863.

Enclosed are a set of Xeroxes which the Museum may keep which include copies and some originals of correspondence in favor of Peter Page's appointment.

My question is whether the signature "Abraham Lincoln" on the appointment document is in reality his, or someone else's idea of his. Also included is a Xerox of the roll of the National Republican Convention, Chicago, May 16, 1860.

Originals of these documents can be furnished for examination if desired.

Sincerely yours,

J. David Baker

JDB:da

Encls.

Abraham

President of the Uni

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PR

Know ye, That, reposing special trust and confidence in the integ
I DO APPOINT HIM an Assessor of Taxes for the
State of Illinois.

and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties
with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, unto
during the pleasure of the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
of the United States, and no longer.

In testimony whereof, I have

Department of the U

Given under my

in the year

the INDEPEND

BY TH

Lincoln

States of America,

TS SHALL COME, GREETING:

iligence, and discretion of

Peter Page
15 Collection District of the

it office according to law, and to have ~~and~~ to hold the said office,
he said *Peter Page*

time being, and until the end of the next session of the Senate

and these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Treasury
States to be hereunto affixed.

d, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, this *fifth* day of *October*

Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *Sixty Three* and of

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA the *Eighty eighth*

SIDENT:

Abraham Lincoln

Spencer

Secretary of the Treasury.

Office of Collector of Internal Revenue,

First District, (Cook County,) Illinois.

Chicago, Dec. 10 1863

This is to certify that Peter Page Esq.
Assessor for the 4th District of
Illinois, has this day deposited
with me a duplicate of his oath
of office.

Jos. Shinnick
Collector of Int. Rev.
1st District Ill.

copy

Chicago March 30th 1863

Hon J. C. Arnold
Washington D C

Hon

Friend,

With
office of Agribu for its
District became vacant by
the resignation of Mr. Adams
after which I am informed is
likely to occur I know
of no one better fitted
for the place than John
Page Esq, and moreover
he is an ardent
worker in the cause
of freedom.

Yours truly

Wm A. Willard

copy

Mount-Horse

Chicago March 26th 1863

Friend Arnold,

I am informed
that Mr. Adams is the proper
to resign the office he now holds
& that he has recommended Mr.
John Page for the position. You are
that Mr. Page ought to have the place
He has labored constantly and efficiently
for the help of the Government, and been
his appointment would meet
approval of the business community.
I hope most sincerely, that Mr. Page
will receive the appointment.

Yours truly

Wm A. Willard

Copy

Chicago March 25th 1863

How do you do,

My dear Sir, I think it is high

time that our friend Mr Page should be remembered. When we were in New York I have been thinking more in the party than he, & he is most worth knowing. I beg of you not to forget him. I understand Mr Chadworth is going to resign the "Apprentice". If so, I think you could do better than to replace him. We need not only a friend, but a honest-conscientious man in that office. Mr Page fills all these conditions, & is entitled to the place. When have you got places who did not deserve them. His name should be put in front. When his good place should not be taken to recommend Mr Page. He is one of the men always to be relied upon. He is not in the way, as a man of means & recommendation. I must leave to him the opportunity. It is his duty to venture things which it placed to the credit of the Page. It will not do to have any other man who is not so reliable. Truly your friend, J. Henry Deane

Chicago March 24th 1863
How do you do,
Dear Sir,

I have learned within a day or two that Mr Chadworth has left the design his office of "Apprentice" the District. I wish to urge upon you the appointment of Mr Page to fill his place. Mr Page has shown upon this community that ought not to be overlooked. As there is better qualified, or has devoted more time & tactfulness to serve the best interests of his country than Mr Page & his appointment would give great satisfaction.

Names of Parties who have
written private letters on this subject

Jos Medill - Editor Tribune

J H Kay

" "

J L Scripps Post-Office

Wm V Church

C. H. Wickes

R M Hughes

Wm J Young Secy. Am. Assn.

Philip Wadsworth

E. L. Wadsworth

Gro. Ad. Sage

Chicago March 21st 1863

Hon. Gen. Arnold)
Washington, D.C.)

Understanding that Mr. Wadsworth the present A. S.
Agent for this district is about to resign that office, the undersigned
respectfully nominate for your support Peter Page Esq of this City
to fill the vacancy which will be thus occasioned.

Intimately known to both yourself and the
President, as Mr. Page is, it were unnecessary to speak of
his qualifications or character. The undersigned
however avail themselves of this occasion to say, that he is
not only eminently qualified to discharge the duties
of that office, but that his unselfish, and successful
labors in support of the Government entitle him, in
our opinion to its favor, and give him strong claims
upon its patronage. We therefore earnestly request that you will
endeavor to procure the appointment of Mr. Page to that office, believing
that it will not only be his most worthily bestowed and creditable
to the Government, but that it will be received by our
Community with demonstrations of the highest satisfaction.

Thos. Cunningham
George Meadmore

John Mc Wisson
Sam H Higgins
Casper Burtis

Forrest Brewster
A. C. Hering
E. B. McCagg
A. C. Coventry

Wm Brog
S. P. Hilliard
Wm H Bradley
J. R. Jones

Chicago March 27th 1840
Hon J E Arnold,
Dear Sir,

I am informed that Mr Wadsworth has resigned or is about to resign the Speakership of this District, & that Peter Page is an applicant for the position. It would seem to me that letters from no one were required insure his appointment, where his position and services are known. There is no qualification for the Office he does not possess, & no one can give greater satisfaction to the public. If party and public services are to be considered no one has higher claim. I let me say in all frankness that if he is put aside for any one else that I can more think of, it will be deemed offensive to the most influential members of the party. I speak strongly because I know the feeling is strong. He has always been ready to devote his best energies to the public good, & within the last two years has devoted more than one third of his time to the country. To set such a man aside for anything short of important measures is bad policy, and

Great injustice. I am sure nothing
I can say can be necessary to satisfy
you of the propriety, and justice of his appointment.

Yours truly,

Wm. Goodrich

P.S. If you think any personal favor is
due me his appointment will be
considered as such.

G. G.

Chicago March 26th 1863
Dear Sir,

I learn that Mr. McClure with
the present prospect for this District proposes
to resign.

Peter Page Esq. is an applicant
for the appointment thus to be made
vacant. You know Mr. Page personally
and I need not say any thing of
his qualifications for the office.
I do not believe that a better
appointment could be made
nor do I know of anyone whose
stronger claims for it than Mr. Page.
Few if any of our citizens have
devoted more time, and labor
to the cause of the country for
the last two years than Mr. Page.
I am confident his appointment would
give universal satisfaction to all loyal
men. It is undoubtedly fit to be made
and I trust you may find it
consistent with your views of public duty
to confer on him the appointment.
Very respectfully
H. A. Lincoln
President &c. Thomas Dr. removed

*Good
I can find
whether has
signed Treasury
Appointments or
not. I
doubt it.
file
m.*

May 23, 1978

Mr. J. David Baker
Hugh J. Baker and Company
P. O. Box 892
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Mr. Baker:

The signature on the document dated October 5, 1863 relating the appointment of Peter Page as Assessor of Taxes for the First Collection District of the State of Illinois is that of Abraham Lincoln.

To tell whether Lincoln's signature is a printed or an autographed signature on this document, you can no doubt tell better than anyone else by examining the original document. Xerox copies are not used to authenticate signatures or writings as it is impossible to tell whether the signature or writing is printed or handwritten because on a Xerox copy all writings appear as printed regardless of whether the writing on the original document is printed or signed.

I did notice that there does appear to be quite a variation in the depth of print on the signature of Abraham Lincoln on the Xerox in comparison to the other writings on the document. Here again, the original document can confirm whether this is true on just a poor Xerox copy.

From all the other copies of correspondence you sent in written to Mr. Arnold pertaining to the recommendation of Peter Page for the job, the appointment of Peter Page to this job and the certification of Page's oath to the office, doubtlessly authenticates the document itself.

For your own personal comparison, I am enclosing two prints of appointments, each of which carry the autographed signature of Abraham Lincoln.

Enclosed also are two Xerox copies of references made to Peter Page in The Collected Works Of Abraham Lincoln: The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois IV (Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1953, p. 177) by Roy P. Basler, Editor and The Collected Works Of Abraham Lincoln: Supplement 1832-1865 (Greenwood Press: Westport, Connecticut, 1974, p. 190) by Roy P. Basler, Editor. I thought you might find these of particular interest. Please note our stamping on the Xerox copies as these references are restricted and not in public domain. They are useable only for private study, scholarship and research.

Mr. J. David Baker
May 23, 1978
Page 2

Our special thanks to you for all the Xerox copies you sent us on the correspondence pertaining to the recommendations submitted to Mr. Arnold in Peter Page's behalf relating to the appointment, the actual appointment, the filing of the appointment and the Roll of the National Republican Convention on May 16, 1860, in Chicago. We can use this data to update our Lincolniana files on Lincoln documents, Peter Page and the 1860 National Republican Convention.

If we can be of any further service to you, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely, Jr.

MJH/slm

Enc.

print enclosed #3154, #
two copies of "The Collected Works of
Abraham Lincoln"



